

units 135-1 and 135-2. Each of the processing units 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3 transmits a write data or a read address to the majority units 135-1, 135-2, each of which compares the transmissions from the processing units 1-1, 1-2, 1-3 and chooses one of the transmissions based on majority logic.

However, Applicant submits that the majority logic of Okamoto is not used with diagnosis results of self diagnoses by the processing units 1-1, 1-2, 1-3. More specifically, at column 26, lines 60-61 of Okamoto discloses that “[w]hen all the self diagnoses have finished, three self diagnostic results are judged” Applicant submits that the judgement of Okamoto is not executed by the majority units 135-1 and 135-2. Instead, at column 25, lines 54-58, Okamoto discloses that the “[t]he processing unit A writes the error information and the self diagnostic result into a saving area (A) 291, which is one of predetermined saving area corresponding to the processing units A, B, and C in the main memory 143-1 as shown in FIG. 14”. Additionally, at column 26, line 12-16, Okamoto discloses that “[t]he processing units B and C analyze the contents of the saving area 291 written by the faulty processing unit A in the main memory 143-1, and judge if the processing unit A is repairable or not based on the self diagnostic result of the processing unit A.” Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the judgement of the diagnosis results in Okamoto is not related to the disclosed majority logic.

Further, the processing units of Okamoto are dedicated to the judgement, as the judgement programs are essentially installed into, and executed by, processing units B and C. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Okamoto does not disclose or even suggest determining whether there is a faulty processing unit based on majority logic of the diagnosis results of the processing units.

Applicant respectfully submits that Okamoto fails to disclose all of the claimed combinations of features, as required for an anticipation rejection under §102. For example, but not by way of limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that Okamoto fails to disclose a second element which inputs diagnosis results from first elements and determines whether there is a faulty first element in the first elements based on majority logic of the diagnosis results, as recited in independent claim 1, and determining whether there is a fault first element in the first elements based on *majority logic of diagnosis results* from the first elements, as recited in independent claim 12. As noted above, Okamoto does not disclose or even suggest use of majority logic results to determine whether there is a faulty element. Also, Applicant respectfully submits that with the recited second element or a determining step, no first element dedicated to determination of the faulty first element, or a program executed therein, is needed, as is the case in Okamoto.

Claims 3-11 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 14-18 depend from independent claims 12. Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102 rejections, and allowance of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/357,990

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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